

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A home network system comprising:
 - at least one slave device; and
 - a master device operatively connected to the slave device, the master device comprising:
 - a microprocessor operatively connected to the slave device for repeatedly sending a status request signal to the slave device and receiving one or more response signals from the slave device;
 - a memory coupled to the microprocessor for constructing an operation history database by accumulatively storing operation status data included in each response signal, wherein the microprocessor extracts data from the operation history database when a history inquiry request is received from a user; and
 - a display unit coupled to the microprocessor for displaying the extracted operation history data.
2. The home network system of claim 1, wherein the microprocessor identifies the at least one slave device by checking their identifications (IDs).
3. The home network system of claim 1, wherein the displayed operation history data includes a list of operations or events performed by the slave device during a predetermined period of time.

4. The home network system of claim 1, wherein the history inquiry request received from the user includes a user selection of a period of time, and the displayed operation history data includes a list of operations or events performed by each slave device during the selected period of time.

5. The home network system of claim 1, wherein the operation status data included in each response signal includes information indicating initiation or completion of an operation and a corresponding time of the initiation or completion.

6. The home network system of claim 1, wherein the master device is any one of a television (TV) receiver, a refrigerator having a display panel, a personal computer (PC), and a personal data assistant (PDA) device.

7. The home network system of claim 1, wherein the memory accumulatively stores the operation status data included in each response signal, regardless of whether a message BLOCK function of the master device is currently activated or not.

8. The home network system of claim 1, wherein the microprocessor and the at least one slave device are connected together through Power Line Communication (PLC) modems.

9. A television (TV) receiver connected to a plurality of slave devices in a home network system, the TV receiver comprising:

a microprocessor coupled to the plurality of slave devices for repeatedly sending status request signals to the slave devices and receiving one or more response signals from each slave device;

a memory coupled to the microprocessor for constructing an operation history database by accumulatively storing operation status data included in each response signal, wherein the microprocessor extracts data from the operation history database when a history inquiry request is received from a user; and

a display unit coupled to the microprocessor for displaying the extracted operation history data.

10. The television (TV) receiver of claim 9, wherein the microprocessor and the plurality of slave devices are connected together through Power Line Communication (PLC) modems.

11. The television (TV) receiver of claim 9, wherein the displayed operation history data includes a list of operations or events performed by the slave devices during a predetermined period of time.

12. The television (TV) receiver of claim 9, wherein the history inquiry request received from the user includes a user selection of at least one slave device, and the displayed operation history data includes a list of operations or events performed by each selected slave device during a predetermined period of time.

13. The television (TV) receiver of claim 9, wherein the history inquiry request received from the user includes a user selection of a period of time, and the displayed operation history

data includes a list of operations or events performed by each slave device during the selected period of time.

14. The television (TV) receiver of claim 9, wherein the memory accumulatively stores the operation status data included in each response signal, regardless of whether a message BLOCK function of the television (TV) receiver is currently activated or not.

15. A method of providing operation history data in a home network system, the method comprising:

sending status request signals to a plurality of slave devices, respectively;

receiving one or more response signals sent by each slave device in response to the status request signals;

constructing an operation history database in a memory by accumulatively storing operation status data included in each response signal into the memory; and

extracting data from the operation history database when a history inquiry request is received from a user, wherein the extracted operation history data is displayed on a display unit.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising identifying the plurality of slave devices by checking their identifications (IDs).

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the displayed operation history data includes a list of operations or events performed by the plurality slave devices during a predetermined period of time.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the operation status data included in each response signal includes data indicating a current operation status of a slave device.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the operation status data included in each response signal includes information indicating initiation of one or more operations by a slave device and a time of the initiation.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the operation status data included in each response signal includes information indicating completion of one or more operations by a slave device and a time of the completion.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein the operation status data included in each response signal includes information indicating that there is no operation in progress.

22. The method of claim 15, wherein the history inquiry request received from the user includes a user selection of at least one slave device, and the displayed data includes a list of operations or events performed by each selected slave device during a predetermined period of time.

23. The method of claim 15, wherein the history inquiry request received from the user includes a user selection of a period of time, and the displayed operation history data includes a list of operations or events performed by each slave device during the selected period of time.

24. The method of claim 15, wherein the user automatically makes the history inquiry request by turning the power of a master device on.

25. The method of claim 15, wherein the user manually makes the history inquiry request by activating a corresponding function key provided within the master device.